



First Presbyterian

CHURCH OF PORTLAND

Service for the Lord's Day

August 23, 2026

10:30 AM

Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Please remember to silence your cell phone.

*Please stand as you are able.

Regular text is read by minister.

Bold text is read by congregation.

THE GATHERING

The prelude is a time of music for quiet reflection to prepare our hearts for worship.

PRELUDE

Prelude on *Beach Spring*

John Karl Hirten

Prelude on *Jerusalem*

Andrew Unsworth

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Those attending worship are invited to fill out a blue card in the pew to register your attendance or express interest in the church's programs. You may place the cards in the offering plates as you depart at the end of the service. Those worshipping online are invited to click the blue tab on the worship page, "Visiting FPC? Let's Connect!"

INTROIT

God of Compassion

Christine Manderfeld

God of compassion, God of merciful love,
hear our songs of thanks and praise.

Give praise to God, all you nations. Give glory, all you peoples.
Strong is God's love for us; God is faithful forever.

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Come, people of God, and enter the room of mercy.

**We come to the God who is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.**

We come knowing that God's mercy is larger than our own.

Larger than our understanding. Larger than our comfort.

Larger even than the boundaries we would draw.

Jesus says, "Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy."

Teach us to receive your mercy—and to become people who extend it.

Come, let us worship the God whose compassion reaches farther than we imagine.

We come with open hearts. Amen.

***PRAYER OF THE DAY** (*Unison*)

Merciful God, you are gracious and compassionate,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.
Your mercy reaches toward us even when we have turned away,
and yet sometimes we resist when that same mercy is offered to others.
Open our hearts today.
Teach us to see as you see, to care as you care,
and to remember that we, too, live by mercy.
May the mercy we receive from you become mercy we offer to one another.
Through Jesus Christ, who shows us the wideness of your love. Amen.

***HYMN #270**

O Lord, You Are My God and King

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION** (*Unison*)

Merciful God, we confess that we want mercy
when we are the ones who need it,
but sometimes resist it when you offer it to others.
Like Jonah, we can become angry when grace reaches
someone we think has gone too far.
We remember the wrongs others have done
and forget the wrongs we have done.
We judge people by their worst moments
while asking others to understand our best intentions.
We are quick to notice the faults of others
and slow to notice the hardness of our own hearts.
Forgive us. Forgive us for the mercy we have withheld,
the compassion we have resisted, the forgiveness we have delayed,
and the people we have decided are beyond our concern.
Make our hearts larger, O God.
Teach us to see as you see. Teach us to care as you care.
Teach us to recognize the humanity
of those whose lives seem very different from our own.
And when we cannot yet love, teach us at least to remain open.
When we cannot yet forgive, teach us to begin.
When we cannot yet understand, teach us to listen.
Remind us that we are all recipients of mercy.
And let the mercy we have received from you
become mercy we are willing to offer others.
Through Christ our Lord.

Prayers of confession continue in silence.

***LORD, HAVE MERCY**

**Lord, have mercy upon us.
Christ, have mercy upon us.
Lord, have mercy upon us.**

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

Hear the good news: God is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

We receive God's mercy with grateful hearts.

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven, restored, and made new.

Thanks be to God. Amen.

***RESPONSE OF PRAISE #645 (verse 4)**

**Throughout my toilsome way along I sing aloud thy praises,
that all may hear the grateful song my voice unwearied raises.
Be joyful in the Lord, my heart; both soul and body, take your part:
to God all praise and glory!**

Text: Johann Jacob Schütz, 1675; trans. Frances Elizabeth Cox, 1864, alt.
Tune: MIT FREUDEN ZART, 8.7.8.7.8.8.7; Bohemian Brethren's *Kirchengesang*, 1566

***SHARING THE PEACE**

Since God has forgiven us in Christ, let us forgive one another.

The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

And also with you!

Please take a moment to greet those around you with God's peace.

THE WORD

*We are grateful for the joy and energy children bring to our faith community
and look forward to our Children's Moments resuming after the summer months!*

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Steve Chown

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

Jonah 4:1-11

Pew Bible, OT p. 861

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM

There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

arr. Mark Schweizer

There's a wideness in God's mercy like the wideness of the sea;
there's a kindness in God's justice which is more than liberty.
There is welcome for the sinner, and more graces for the good;
there is mercy with the Savior, there is healing in his blood.

There is no place where earth's sorrows are more felt than up in heaven;
there is no place where earth's failings have such kindly judgment given.
There is plentiful redemption in the blood that has been shed;
there is joy for all the members in the sorrows of the Head.

For the love of God is broader than the measures of the mind;
and the heart of the Eternal is most wonderfully kind.
If our love were but more faithful, we would gladly trust God's word;
and our lives reflect thanksgiving for the goodness of our Lord.

— Frederick William Faber, 1854, *alt.*

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 5:1-7

Pew Bible, NT p. 4

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.**SERMON**

"The Room of Mercy"

Rev. Dr. Joan Miller

RESPONSE TO THE WORD***HYMN**

Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service

**Lord, whose love in humble service bore the weight of human need,
who upon the cross, forsaken, worked your mercy's perfect deed;
we, your servants, bring the worship not of voice alone, but heart;
consecrating to your purpose ev'ry gift which you impart.**

**Still your children wander homeless; still the hungry cry for bread;
still the captives long for freedom; still in grief we mourn our dead.
As you, Lord, in deep compassion healed the sick and freed the soul,
by your Spirit send your power to our world to make it whole.**

**As we worship, grant us vision, till your love's revealing light
in its height and depth and greatness dawns upon our quickened sight,
making known the needs and burdens your compassion bids us bear,
stirring us to ardent service, your abundant life to share.**

**Called from worship to your service, forth in your great name we go,
to the child, the youth, the aged, love in living deeds to show;
hope and health, goodwill and comfort, counsel, aid, and peace we give,
that your servants, Lord, in freedom, may your mercy know and live.**

Text: Albert F. Bayly, 1961 © Oxford University Press
Tune: BEACH SPRING, 8.7.8.7.D; *The Sacred Harp*, 1844

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** (*Unison*)

**We believe in God, whose love reaches to the poor in spirit,
whose mercy embraces those who mourn,
and whose justice lifts up the humble.**

**We believe in Jesus Christ, who announced the coming of God's kingdom,
who called the unlikely "blessed," who welcomed the forgotten,
fed the hungry, forgave sinners, made peace among enemies,
and remained faithful even to the cross.**

**We believe the Holy Spirit forms us into the likeness of Christ,
creating in us humble hearts, a hunger for righteousness,
merciful hands, pure intentions, and the courage to make peace.**

**We believe that God's kingdom is already breaking into the world,
even as we await its fullness.**

**Therefore, we will seek justice, extend mercy, walk humbly with our God,
and rejoice in hope, trusting that nothing can separate us
from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.**

Thanks be to God. Amen.

INVITATION TO OFFERING

Thank you for your faithful support.

Contributions to the life and ministry of this congregation may be made by:

- *Leaving your gifts in the offering plates as you depart.*
- *Mailing a check to the church office.*
- *Scanning the QR code on the right.*
- *Visiting firstpresportland.org.*



OFFERTORY

For the Troubles and the Sufferings

Rodolfo Gaede Neto

For the troubles and the sufferings of the world,
God, we call upon your mercy: the whole creation's laboring in pain!
Lend an ear to the rising cry for help from oppressed and hopeless people:
Come! Hasten your salvation, healing love!
We pray for peace, the blessed peace that comes from making justice,
to cover and embrace us. Have mercy, Lord!
We pray for power, the power that will sustain your people's witness:
until your Kingdom come, kyrie eleison!

***DOXOLOGY #608**

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise Christ, all people here below;
praise Holy Spirit evermore;
praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.**

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND INTERCESSION

THE LORD'S PRAYER (*Unison*)

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors;
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

THE SENDING

***HYMN #306**

Blest Be the Tie That Binds

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE

Prelude on *Beach Spring*

Wilbur Held

Music reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-706706.

**PRAYERS OF
THE PEOPLE**

We join in holding in prayer: Dennis Bradley, Kathy Callas, Doug Marcks, and others facing illness and loss.

You can request prayer by calling 503-228-7331 x 2 or emailing prayer@firstpresportland.org. Please let us know whether you would like someone to follow up with you and whether your request should be shared publicly or kept confidential.

**SANCTUARY
FLOWERS**

Today's sanctuary flowers are given in loving memory of Jack & Polly Chapman's September 3, 1942 wedding at First Presbyterian Church by their son, Rob.

VISITING US?

*We're so happy to welcome you to FPC!
Please take a moment to fill out a visitor card
(located in the back of the pews) or scan the
QR code to the right for a digital version.*

*We hope you'll join us at coffee hour
downstairs in Geneva Hall after the service.
We'd love to get to know you!*



ANNOUNCEMENTS

All-Church Picnic

When: Sun, Aug 23, 12:00-4:00 pm

Where: Menucha

All are welcome to come to Menucha today for a potluck picnic by the pool. Please come whether or not you have food to contribute.! Potlucks are always plentiful. This is a great opportunity to get to know each other better and strengthen our ties!

Covenant Conversations: Cascades

When: Sat, Aug 29, 10:00 am- 3:30 pm

Where: Westminster PC

As a member of the Covenant Network of Presbyterians, FPC is honored to help host Covenant Conversations: Cascades, a Presbytery-wide gathering focused on faithful inclusion. Through worship, conversation, and workshops, we'll explore Scripture, our faith tradition, and the stories around us as we grow in recognizing the image of God in all people. Together, we'll support church leaders, engage challenging conversations, and deepen our witness. Join us for this meaningful time of learning, connection, and growth. Registration is \$25 and includes lunch (group discounts available). More info and registration here: covnetpres.org/events/cascades

Service for Personal Restoration and Healing

When: Sun, Aug 30, 2:00 pm

Where: Chapel

Christ calls the heavy laden to find rest, acknowledge our burdens, and seek God's peace together. With the stress of current events, unrealized hopes, or personal loss, we all need space to reflect and process our emotions. So come as you are and join us next week for this service of gentle reflection and prayer. All are welcome.

Volunteer Opportunity: Nursery Supervision

We need nursery volunteers for this coming program year! We are looking for 2-3 individuals to commit to 1-2 Sundays a month. Responsibilities include supervision of the littles in the nursery as well as support to any parents there with their kids. If you are interested and/or willing, please contact Pastor Andrew (awall@firstpresportland.org).

Open Circle Fall Start Date

When: Thu, Sep 3, 10:00 am

Where: Heritage & Online

Open Circle invites all women of First Presbyterian to the start of our 37th year of Bible study, spiritual connection, and a bit of church office support. This season, we will meet on the first and third Thursdays of each month. Our 2026-2027 Horizons Bible Study, "United Through Christ, Bound to Each Other," explores Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians. Study books are \$14 and available at the Open Circle table in Fellowship Hall during Sunday Coffee Hour. We hope you'll join us!

Kick Off Sunday Service & Picnic

When: Sun, Sep 13, 10:30 & 11:30 am

Where: Sanctuary & Plaza

Join us in celebrating the start of a new school year and the learning ahead at FPC this fall! Students are invited to bring their backpacks for a Blessing of the Backpacks during the Children's Moment in worship. After the service, we'll enjoy a picnic and live music together on the Plaza, with bubbles and fun water activities for all ages! Food and volunteer signups are available in Geneva Hall. Wear denim and/or a red bandana and join us for a day of fun and fellowship!

DoveLewis Service of Remembrance

When: Sun, Sep 13, 4:00 pm

Where: Sanctuary

Remember, reflect, and find support with us at the Annual DoveLewis Service of Remembrance. We'll honor the beloved animal companions who shaped our lives with unconditional love. Whether your pet loss is recent or long ago, you're welcome here to share in remembrance. More info and RSVP at this link: shorturl.at/X43pO

Have an announcement for the bulletin or eBlast?

Submit it at this link by Monday each week!

shorturl.at/eVnBQ

Love God.
Love Our Neighbors.

Vision Statement

We commit to be a church that is:

Engaged: A forward-thinking and involved congregation committed to each other and to the wider community.

Inclusive: A faith community that affirms and welcomes all people.

Compassionate: A congregation that follows in Christ's way, advancing the well-being and dignity of all people, working for a just and equitable society, and caring for all creation.

Faithful: Living our faith authentically with energy, intelligence, imagination, and love while expanding the circle where God's love is known.

CHURCH STAFF

Principal Church Staff:

Rev. Dr. Joan Miller, Interim Head Pastor
Rev. Brenna Dykman, Associate Pastor
Rev. Andrew Wall, Associate Pastor
Rev. Aaron Morris, Stated Supply Pastor
Greg Homza, Director of Music Ministries
Marc Lavender, Church Business Administrator

jmiller@firstpresportland.org
bdykman@firstpresportland.org
awall@firstpresportland.org
amorris@firstpresportland.org
ghomza@firstpresportland.org
cba@firstpresportland.org

Support Staff:

Alexis Crawford, Communications Coordinator
Deb Davis, Bookkeeper
Bill Edwards, Sexton, Events & Wedding Coordinator
Eric Park, Maintenance Technician

communications@firstpresportland.org
ap@firstpresportland.org
events@firstpresportland.org
maintenance@firstpresportland.org



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Office Hours

Tuesday - Friday | 10:00 am - 4:00 pm

First Presbyterian Church

1200 SW Alder Street, Portland, OR 97205
www.firstpresportland.org
(503) 228-7331